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EXAMINER

SHIFERAW, ELEN I A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2136

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/037,498

Applicant(s)

UNGER ET AL.

Examiner

Eleni A Shiferaw

Art Unit

2136

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-81 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-81 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/3/04, 1/30/04...
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

DETAILED ACTION

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101*

1. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

2. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. It is not tangibly embodied as it is only software per se. It is suggested that the claimed subject matter "...decrypting and decoding are carried out in an integrated circuit" should be changed to "... decrypting and decoding programs are stored in..."

3. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. It is not tangibly embodied as it is only software per se. It is suggested that the claimed subject matter "...decrypting and decoding are carried out in one of an application specific integrated circuit and field programmable gate array" should be changed to "... decrypting and decoding programs are stored in one of ..."

4. Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. It is not tangibly embodied as it is only software per se. It is suggested that the claimed subject matter "An electronic transmission medium carrying a sequence of instructions for ..." should be changed to "An encrypted television signal stored in an electronic transmission medium ..."

*Double Patenting*

5. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

6. Claims 1-5 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 35-37 and 40-45 of U.S. Patent No. 10/037,914.

Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because an application 10/037,914 specifically discloses

Application 10/037,914 Claim 35

receiving a television signal having an encrypted audio portion and a clear video portion, wherein the multiple encrypted audio portion comprises a first encrypted audio portion encrypted under a first encryption method and a second encrypted portion encrypted under a second encrypted method;

decrypting the encrypted audio portion to produce a decrypted audio portion;

decoding the decrypted audio portion and the clear video portion to produce a decoded television signal.

An application 10/037,498 has claim 1 that read as follows:

receiving partially encrypted content comprising unencrypted content, first content encrypted under a first encryption system and second content encrypted under a second encryption system;

decrypting the second encrypted content; and

decoding the clear first content and the decrypted second content to decode the partially encrypted content.

The only difference between these two claims is that in the application 10/037,914 claims “...decoding the decrypted audio portion and the clear video portion...” and application 10/037,498 claims “...decoding the clear first content and the decrypt second content...” Clearly, applicant is attempting to obtain a narrower coverage in application 10/037,914 and a broader coverage in application 10/037,498.

It is well settled that the omission of an element and its function is an obvious expedient if the remaining elements perform the same function as before. In re Karlson, 136 USPQ 184 (CCPA 1963). Also EX parte Rainu, 168 USPQ 375 (Bd. App. 1969). Omission of a reference element whose function is not needed would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

7. Similarly, claims 6, 14, 27, 35, and 43 of present application and the claims 35, and 46 of co-pending applications are different in the similar way as in for claim 1.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102**

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

9. Claims 1-17, 20-29, 32-34, 42-50, 52-58, 60-78, and 81-82 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Jandel et al. (Jandel WO 00/31964).

As per claims 1-5, Jandel teaches a method/television device/set-top box/integrated circuit of decoding partially encrypted content (Jandel page 6 par. 3-6), comprising:

receiving partially encrypted content comprising unencrypted content, first content encrypted under a first encryption system and second content encrypted under a second encryption system (Jandel page 6 par. 3-6, claims 1 & 6, and fig. 1 No. 101, 103 & 105, fig. 2b);

decrypting the second encrypted content (Jandel page 6 par. 3-6, claims 1 & 6, and fig. 2b No. 253); and

decoding the clear first content and the decrypted second content to decode the partially encrypted content (Jandel page 6 par. 3-6, claims 1 & 6, and fig. 2b No. 255).

As per claims 6, and 12-13, Jandel teaches a method of decoding a partially encrypted television signal, comprising:

receiving a message identifying a primary packet identifier (PID) for a program and a secondary PID for the program (Jandel page 5 par. 1-3, page 6 par. 3-6, and claims 1 & 6);

decrypting packets having the secondary PID (Jandel page 5 par. 1-3, page 6 par. 3-6, fig. 2b, and claims 1 & 6); and

combining the decrypted packets with packets having the primary PID to form a data stream representing the program (Jandel page 6 par. 5).

As per claim 14, and 25-26, Jandel teaches a method/electronic storage medium/electronic transmission medium of decoding partially encrypted television program, comprising:

identifying a television program by packets associated with a primary packet identifier and a secondary packet identifier (Jandel page 5 par. 1-3, page 6 par. 3-6, fig. 2b, and claims 1 & 6);

decrypting packets having the secondary packet identifier (Jandel page 5 par. 1-3, page 6 par. 3-6, fig. 2b, and claims 1 & 6).

As per claims 27, and 34, Jandel teaches a television device/set-top box, comprising:

means for receiving a partially encrypted television program, the television signal being identified by packets associated with either a primary packet identifier or a secondary packet identifier (Jandel page 5 par. 1-3, fig. 1 No. 101, 103, & 105, and claims 1 & 6);

a decrypter that decrypts packets having the secondary packet identifier (Jandel page 5 par. 1-3, page 6 par. 3-6, fig. 2b, and claims 1 & 6); and

a decoder that decodes the decrypted packets having the secondary packet identifier along with packets having the primary packet identifier to decode the partially encrypted television signal (Jandel page 6 par. 3-6, claims 1 & 6, and fig. 2b No. 255).

As per claim 43, Jandel teaches a television set-top box, comprising:

- a receiver that receives (Jandel Fig. 2b):

- a plurality of unencrypted elementary stream packets (Jandel page 3 par. 5, and fig. 1 No. 101); and

- a plurality of encrypted packets, wherein both the unencrypted are required to decode a television signal (Jandel Fig. 2b, page 5 par. 1-3, and page 6 par. 3-6);

- a decrypter that decrypts the encrypted packets (Jandel Fig. 2b, and page 6 par. 3-6); and

- a decoder that decodes the packets to produce the television signal (Jandel Fig. 2b No. 255, and page 6 par. 3-6).

As per claims 49, 52-53, 55, 58-59, 61, and 63-66, Jandel teaches a circuit/apparatus/method, comprising:

- an input that receives an input stream of packets (Jandel Fig. 2b), the input stream of packets comprising:

- unencrypted packets having a first packet identifier (Jandel page 6 par. 3-6, fig. 1 No. 101, and Fig. 2b),

- encrypted packets having the first packet identifier (Jandel page 5 par. 1-3, fig. 1 No. 103 & 105, and Fig. 2b),

- encrypted packets having a second packet identifier (Jandel page 5 par. 1-3, fig. 1 No. 103 & 105, and Fig. 2b),

- a packet identifier reader that reads the packet identifiers of the packets in the input



stream of packets, and that discards the encrypted packets having the first packet identifier (Jandel page 3 par. 4);

a packet identifier re-mapping circuit that re-maps the second packet identifier to the first packet identifier to produce re-mapped packets (Jandel page 5 par. 3, page 6 par. 1-3, and claims 1 & 6); and

a multiplexer that multiplexes the re-mapped packets with the unencrypted packets having the first packet identifier to produce an output stream of packets (Jandel page 5 par. 3, page 6 par. 1-3, and claims 1 & 6).

As per claim 68, 71-74, 76, and 80-81, Jandel teaches a circuit/apparatus/ method, comprising:

an input that receives an input stream of packets (Jandel Fig. 2b), the input stream of packets comprising:

unencrypted packets having a first packet identifier (Jandel page 6 par. 3-6, fig. 1 No. 101, and Fig. 2b),

encrypted packets having the first packet identifier (Jandel page 5 par. 1-3, fig. 1 No. 103 & 105, and Fig. 2b),

encrypted packets having a second packet identifier (Jandel page 5 par. 1-3, fig. 1 No. 103 & 105, and Fig. 2b),

a packet identifier reader that reads the packet identifiers of the packets in the input stream of packets, and that discards the encrypted packets having the first packet identifier (Jandel page 3 par. 4); and

Art Unit: 2136

a packet identifier re-mapping circuit that re-maps at least one of the second packet identifier and the first packet identifier so that the packets that have not been discarded have the same packet identifier (Jandel page 5 par. 3, page 6 par. 1-3, and claims 1 & 6).

As per claim 7, Jandel teaches the method, further comprising decoding the decrypted packets and the packets having the primary PID (Jandel Fig. 2b No. 255 and fig. 6 par. 3-6).

As per claim 8, Jandel teaches the method, further comprising mapping the decrypted packets to the primary PID (Jandel Fig. 2b No. 255 and fig. 6 par. 3-6).

As per claim 9, Jandel teaches the method, wherein the mapping is carried out in an integrated circuit device (Jandel Fig. 2b No. 255 and fig. 6 par. 3-6).

As per claim 10, Jandel teaches the method, wherein the mapping is carried out in one of an application specific integrated circuit device and a field programmable gate array (Jandel Fig. 2b No. 255 and fig. 6 par. 3-6).

As per claim 11, Jandel teaches the method, wherein packets having the primary PID comprise unencrypted packets (Jandel fig. 1 No. 101) and encrypted packets (Jandel fig. 1 No. 103 & 105) and further comprising:

receiving encrypted packets having the primary PID (Jandel fig. 2b, and page 6 par. 3-6);  
and

discarding the encrypted packets having the primary PID (Jandel page 3 par. 4).

As per claim 15, Jandel teaches the method, further comprising decoding the decrypted packets having the secondary packet identifier along with packets having the primary packet identifier to decode the partially encrypted television program (Jandel page 6 par. 3-6, and fig. 2b).

As per claims 16, and 28, Jandel teaches the method, further comprising discarding encrypted packets having the primary packet identifier (Jandel page 6 par. 3-6, and fig. 2b).

As per claims 17, and 29, Jandel teaches the method/television device, wherein certain of the packets associated with the primary packet identifier are encrypted according to a first encryption method, and wherein the packets having a secondary packet identifier are encrypted according to a second encryption method (Jandel page 5 par. 1-3, and claims 1 & 6).

As per claims 20, and 33, Jandel teaches the method/television device, wherein the encrypted packets comprise time sliced samples of the television program (Jandel page 5 par. 1-2, and fig. 1 No. 101, 103, and 105).

As per claim 21, Jandel teaches the method, wherein the encrypted packets comprise packets critical to decoding the television program (Jandel page 3-6).

As per claim 22, Jandel teaches the method, wherein the television program is compressed and

Art Unit: 2136

wherein the encrypted packets comprise packets critical to decompression of the television program (Jandel page 6 par. 3-6, and fig. 1 No. 101, 103, and 105).

As per claim 23, Jandel teaches the method, wherein the encrypted packets comprise N packets out of every M packets where N is less than M (Jandel Fig. 1 No. 101, 103, 105, and 101).

As per claim 24, Jandel teaches the method, further comprising remapping packets having the secondary packet identifier to have the primary packet identifier (Jandel page 6 par. 2-6).

As per claims 32, Jandel teaches the apparatus, wherein the encrypted packets comprise video packets (Jandel page 2-3).

As per claim 42, Jandel teaches the apparatus, wherein content player comprises one of a television device a PDA, a music player and a personal computer (Jandel page 2-3, and fig. 1 and 2).

As per claim 44, Jandel teaches the apparatus, wherein the encrypted packets comprise encrypted elementary stream packets (Jandel Fig. 1, and page 5 par. 1-3).

As per claim 45, Jandel teaches the apparatus, wherein the unencrypted packets and encrypted packets comprise transport stream packets (Jandel Fig. 1, and page 5 par. 1-3).

Art Unit: 2136

As per claim 46, Jandel teaches the apparatus, wherein the encrypted packets comprise system information packets (Jandel Fig. 1, and page 5 par. 1-3).

As per claim 47, Jandel teaches the apparatus, wherein the encrypted and unencrypted packets are identified by a packet identifier (Jandel page 6 par. 3-6).

As per claim 48, Jandel teaches the apparatus, wherein the unencrypted packets are identified by a primary packet identifier, and wherein the encrypted packets are identified by a secondary packet identifier (Jandel page 6 par. 3-6, and fig. 2b).

As per claims 50, 56, 62, 70, and 78, Jandel teaches the apparatus/method, wherein the encrypted packets having the first packet identifier are encrypted according to a first encryption technique; and wherein the encrypted packets having the second packet identifier are encrypted according to a second encryption technique (Jandel page 5 par. 1-3, and claims 1 & 6).

As per claims 54, 60, 67, and 75, Jandel teaches the apparatus/method, further comprising a demultiplexer that demultiplexes the output stream of packets based upon the packet identifiers (Jandel page 6 par. 3-6 and fig. 2b No. 255).

As per claim 69, Jandel teaches the method, further comprising multiplexing the packets that have not been discarded with each other to produce an output stream of packets (Jandel page 6

Art Unit: 2136

par. 2-6).

As per claim 77, Jandel teaches the method, further comprising a multiplexer that multiplexes the re-mapped packets with the unencrypted packets having the first packet identifier to produce an output stream of packets (Jandel page 6 par. 2-6, fig. 2b).

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 19, 31, 35-37, and 39-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jandel et al. (Jandel WO 00/31964), in view of Guralnick et al. (Guralnick, Patent Number: 6,058,192).

As per claim 35, Jandel teaches a content player, comprising:

means for receiving partially encrypted audio visual content, the content being identified by packets associated with either a primary packet identifier or a secondary packet identifier (Jandel page 5 par. 1-3, fig. 1 No. 101, 103, & 105, and claims 1 & 6);

a decrypter that decrypts packets having the secondary packet identifier (Jandel page 5 par. 1-3, page 6 par. 3-6, fig. 2b, and claims 1 & 6); and

Art Unit: 2136

a decoder that decodes the decrypted packets having the secondary packet identifier along with packets having the primary packet identifier to decode the partially encrypted television visual data content.

Jandel does fails to explicitly teach encrypting an audio data;

However Guralnick discloses encrypting an audio portion of a television signal (Guralnick Col. 3 lines 31-47, col. 6 lines 55-67, and claim 1).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to employ the teachings of Guralnick within the system of Jandel because it would encrypt a particular portion of audio/video signal to protect audio/video data on broadcasting system.

As per claims 19, 31, and 39, Jandel and Guralnick teach all the subject matter as described above. In addition, Guralnick teaches the method/television device/content player, wherein the encrypted packets comprise audio packets (Guralnick Col. 3 lines 31-47, col. 6 lines 55-67, and claim 1). The rational for combining are the same as claim 35 above.

As per claim 36, Jandel and Guralnick teach all the subject matter as described above. In addition, Jandel teaches the content player, further comprising discarding encrypted packets having the primary packet identifier (Jandel page 6 par. 3-6, and fig. 2b).

As per claim 37, Jandel and Guralnick teach all the subject matter as described above. In addition, Jandel teaches the content player, wherein certain of the packets associated with the primary packet identifier are encrypted according to a first encryption method, and wherein the packets having a secondary packet identifier are encrypted according to a second encryption method (Jandel page 5 par. 1-3, and claims 1 & 6).

As per claim 40, Jandel and Guralnick teach all the subject matter as described above. In addition, Jandel teaches the content player, wherein the encrypted packets comprise video packets (Jandel page 2-3).

As per claim 41, Jandel and Guralnick teach all the subject matter as described above. In addition, Jandel teaches the content player, wherein the encrypted packets comprise time sliced samples of the television program (Jandel page 5 par. 1-2, and fig. 1 No. 101, 103, and 105).

12. Claims 18, 30, 51, 57, and 79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jandel et al. (Jandel WO 00/31964), and further in view of Alattar et al. Improved Selective encryption techniques for secure transmission of MPEG video bit-streams October 1999 (Alattar IEEE '99).

As per claims 18, and 30, Jandel teaches all the subject matter as described above.

Jandel and Guralnick do not explicitly teach MPEG standard.



However Alattar IEEE '99 teaches the method/television device, wherein the encrypted packets comprise transport stream packets carrying an MPEG packetized elementary stream (PES) header as a portion of a payload thereof (Alattar IEEE '99 pages 257-258 section 2.3, and 3.1).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to employ the teachings of Alattar IEEE '99 within the system of Jandel because it would partially/selectively encrypts multiple portions of a television signal and un-encrypt some portions of the signal and multiplexes/combines the un-encrypted data with the encrypted portions in order to have most efficient and highly secure method by reducing processing time over "total" encryption (Alattar IEEE '99 abstract and pages 257-258 section 2.3, and 3.1).

As per claims 51, 57, and 79, Jandel teaches all the subject matter as described above.

Jandel and Guralnick do not explicitly teach MPEG standard.

However Alattar IEEE '99 teaches the apparatus, further comprising an MPEG decoder receiving the output stream of packets (Alattar IEEE '99 pages 257-258 section 2.3, and 3.1).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to employ the teachings of Alattar IEEE '99 within the system of Jandel because it would partially/selectively encrypts multiple portions of a television signal and un-encrypt some portions of the signal and multiplexes/combines the un-encrypted data with the encrypted portions in order to have most efficient and highly secure method by reducing

Art Unit: 2136

processing time over “total” encryption (Alattar IEEE '99 abstract and pages 257-258 section 2.3, and 3.1).

13. Claim 38 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jandel et al. (Jandel WO 00/31964) in view of Guralnick et al. (Guralnick, Patent Number: 6,058,192), and further in view of Alattar et al. Improved Selective encryption techniques for secure transmission of MPEG video bit-streams October 1999 (Alattar IEEE '99).

As per claim 38 Jandel and Guralnick teach all the subject matter as described above. Jandel and Guralnick do not explicitly teach MPEG standard.

However Alattar IEEE '99 teaches wherein the digital television signal complies with an MPEG standard, and wherein the audio packets are identified for encryption by a packet identifier (PID) (Alattar IEEE '99 pages 257-258 section 2.3, and 3.1).

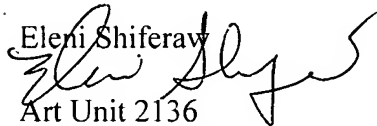
Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to employ the teachings of Alattar IEEE '99 within the combination system of Jandel and Guralnick because it would partially/selectively encrypts multiple portions of a television signal and un-encrypt some portions of the signal and multiplexes/combines the un-encrypted data with the encrypted portions in order to have most efficient and highly secure method by reducing processing time over “total” encryption (Alattar IEEE '99 abstract and pages 257-258 section 2.3, and 3.1).


Art Unit: 2136

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eleni A Shiferaw whose telephone number is 571-272-3867. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Eleni Shiferaw  
  
Art Unit 2136  
March 28, 2005

  
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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
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